

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04307 130009Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /053 W
-----096878 130012Z /66

O R 122230Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7784
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, NU
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF MAJOR SOMOZA

SUMMARY: MAJOR "TACHITO" SOMOZA IS UPBEAT ON GN'S ABILITY
TO HANDLE CURRENT GUERRILLA OPERATIONS BUT INDICATES GN IS HAVING
TO STEP UP ITS OPERATIONS AND IS RUNNING INTO SHORTAGES
OF AMMUNITION AND RATIONS. A REQUEST FROM THE GN FOR US C-RATIONS
MAY BE EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR "TACHITO" SOMOZA IN CONVERSATION WITH US MILITARY
PERSONNEL STATES THAT THE FSLN OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN SEPT. 9
HAS TAKEN THE LIVES OF TEN OF HIS INFANTRY TRAINING SCHOOL
PERSONNEL AND THAT THIRTY HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. THE MILITARY
HOSPITAL IS FULLY AND SO HE HAS CONVERTED A TRAINING SCHOOL
CLASSROOM INTO AN INFIRMARY FOR THE AMBULATORY WOUNDED.
NEVERTHELESS, MAJ. SOMOZA SAYS GN MORALE IS EXTREMELY HIGH AND GN
SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY COMBAT ACTION.

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 04307 130009Z

2. MAJ. SOMOZA INDICATED THAT THE GN IS RAPIDLY EXHAUSTING ITS
AMMUNITION AND SAYS THEY HAVE FOUND OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN
COUNTRIES WHICH CAN SUPPLY ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION. HE ASSERTED
THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA IS SUPPLYING THE FSLN AND THEY
HAVE EVIDENCE BASED ON INTERCEPTED LETTERS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.
HE INDICATED THAT HE IS SHORT ON C-RATIONS TO SUPPLY HIS REACTION

FORCES AND WOULD BE URGENTLY REQUESTING 3,000 CASES FROM THE U.S.

3. SOMOZA ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GN HAS BEGUN TO USE M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS AND RECOILLESS RIFLES WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY AVOIDED IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES.

4. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, MAJ. SOMOZA INDICATED HE IS WITHDRAWING OFFICERS UNDER HIS COMMAND FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN PANAMA AND WONT BE SENDING OTHERS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL.

5. ON THE CURRENT SITUATION, SOMOZA INDICATED THE GN EXPECTS THE OFFENSIVE TO LAST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 13, I.E., UNTIL START OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS SEPTEMBER 14. HE SAID THEY HAD ADVANCE WARNING OF TODAY'S ATTACK ACCROSS THE SOUTHERN BORDER.
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Message Attributes

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